

ANNUAL REPORT

ON THE

HEALTH

OF THE

WEST KENT COMBINED SANITARY DISTRICT

IN

1898,

BY


JAMES SCOTT TEW, M.D., D.P.H.,



BROMLEY :

Printed by S. BUSH & SON, 42, High Street.

1899.



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Annual Report on the Health

OF THE

West Kent Combined Sanitary

District in 1898.

The West Kent Combined Sanitary District includes the Rural Districts of Bromley, Cranbrook, Maidstone, Sevenoaks, Tenterden and Tonbridge; and the Urban Districts of Sevenoaks, Southborough, Tenterden and Tonbridge.

The Population was estimated by the method adopted by the Registrar-General to be **138,953** at the middle of 1898, showing an increase of 1,447 since the middle of 1897.

The number of registered births amounted to **3,155**, which included 1,599 of males and 1,556 of females, and giving a birth-rate of 22·7 per 1,000 of population as compared with 24·7 in 1897.

The lowest birth-rates were 18·4 in the Sevenoaks Urban, and 21·2 in the Cranbrook Rural District, while the Urban Districts of Southborough and Tonbridge showed the highest birth-rates, viz. : 27·5 and 26·1 respectively.

One thousand eight hundred and ninety one deaths were returned, which included 993 of males and 898 of females. To these must be added 10 deaths which occurred outside the Combined District among persons belonging thereto, viz. : at the Bromley and Beckenham Joint Isolation Hospital.

The General Death-rate was **12·9** per 1,000 of population. The lowest death-rates were 11·3 in the Sevenoaks Urban and 11·2 in the Sevenoaks Rural Districts, and the highest recorded were 15·7 in the Southborough Urban and 15·4 in the Maidstone Rural Districts.

Zymotic Diseases.—

Of the total 1,901 deaths, 156 were caused by one or other of the seven principal Zymotic Diseases, as compared with 170 in the previous year, viz.: 2 by Scarlet Fever, 39 by Diphtheria, 9 by Fevers, 14 by Measles, 22 by Whooping-cough, and 70 by Diarrhœa.

Two of these, one death from Diphtheria and the other from Diarrhœa, were those of persons not belonging to the Combined District.

The **Zymotic Death-rate** for the whole District was **1·1**.

The Tenterden Rural District showed a Zymotic Death-rate of 0·0, no persons having died from any of the seven principal Zymotic diseases during the year, and in the Cranbrook Rural District only one person died from Fever, producing the extremely low rate of ·07. The next lowest Zymotic death-rate was ·3 in the Borough of Tenterden.

The Southborough Urban and the Bromley Rural Districts showed the highest Zymotic death-rates, viz.: 2·2 and 1·5 respectively.

The **Infant Mortality**, *i.e.*, the number of deaths of infants under one year of age per 1,000 registered births was **115** for the whole District, the minimum rate being 56 in the Tenterden Rural and the maximum rate 142 in the Maidstone Rural Districts.

Amongst the Urban Districts, Southborough showed the highest rate, viz.: 184, and the Borough of Tenterden the lowest, viz.: 61.

Notifiable Diseases.--

The Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889, has been in force throughout the District since 1890, and the notifiable diseases are those mentioned in the Act, viz.: small-pox, cholera, diphtheria, membranous croup, erysipelas, scarlet fever, typhus, typhoid, enteric, relapsing, continued, and puerperal fever.

The **Notifications** received during the year 1898, numbered 722, as compared with 712 in 1897 and 1,036 in 1896.

They included 294 of Scarlet Fever, 242 of Diphtheria, 78 of Enteric Fever, 1 of Cholera, 4 of Puerperal Fever, and 103 of Erysipelas. Of these notified cases 24·9 per cent. were treated in Isolation Hospitals.

There were no cases of **Small-pox** notified during the year.

Scarlet Fever cases rose from 261 cases in 1897 to 294 in 1898, but the deaths due to it fell from 5 to 2.

The greatest number of cases occurred in the Cranbrook Rural District, viz.: 109, but none were fatal. In the Maidstone Rural District 51 non-fatal cases were reported.

The only two fatal cases were one in the Tonbridge Rural and the other in the Tenterden Urban District.

The Scarlet Fever death-rate was extremely low, being $\cdot 01$ per 1,000 of population, and 25.5 per cent. were treated in Isolation Hospitals.

The following shows the incidence and mortality at the different age-periods :—

0—1 year	1—5 years	5—15 years	15—25 years	25—65 years	
2	61	187	34	10	— 294 cases.
		2			2 deaths.

Diphtheria also showed a slight increase, 242 cases having been reported as compared with 235 in 1897, 39 of which ended fatally, giving a Diphtheria death-rate of $\cdot 2$ per 1,000 of population and a case mortality of 11.5 per cent.

The cases and deaths occurred at the following age-periods :—

0—1 year	1—5 years	5—15 years	15—25 years	25—65 years	65 years & upwards	
8	45	131	23	34	1	— 242 cases.
5	15	18		1		— 39 deaths.

The quarterly notifications and deaths were as follows :—

Quarter	Notifications	Deaths	Per-centage of Death.
1st.	52	9	17.3
2nd.	42	3	7.1
3rd.	50	9	18.1
4th.	98	18	18.3
Totals	242	39	11.5

On the Urban Districts the incidence of Diphtheria was 1.0 cases per 1,000 of population, with a case mortality of 21.8 per cent. while that on the Rural Districts was 1.9 cases with a case mortality of 15.2 per cent.

No cases were notified as Membranous Croup, and the greatest number of cases occurred in the Bromley Rural District.

Enteric Fever fell from 107 cases with 19 deaths in 1897 to 78 cases with 8 deaths.

The case mortality throughout the whole district was 10·2 per cent., and the Typhoid Fever death-rate was ·05 per 1,000 of population.

The Rural District of Tenterden, and the Urban District of Sevenoaks were entirely free from the disease throughout the year, and in the Rural Districts of Cranbrook and Maidstone all the notified cases recovered, as did also those in the Urban District of Southborough.

Cholera one case, notified as **Cholera Nostras** occurred in the Sevenoaks Rural District and ended fatally.

Puerperal Fever produced four cases with one death.

Erysipelas fell from 105 cases with 5 deaths to 103 cases with 8 deaths.

The deaths were reported 2 in each of the Rural Districts of Bromley and Cranbrook, 3 in the Tonbridge Rural District, and one in the Sevenoaks Urban District.

The following shows the age-periods at which the cases and deaths occurred :—

0—1 year	1—5 years	5—15 years	15—25 years	25—65 years	65 years & upwards.	
3	1	10	9	60	20	—103 cases.
3	1			3	1	— 8 deaths.

Two of the deaths occurred among persons not belonging to the District in the Tonbridge Union Workhouse.

Non-notifiable Diseases.—

Measles was not by any means prevalent at any time of the year, only 14 deaths having been caused by this disease, and the patients, with the exception of one, were children under 5 years of age. The deaths occurred 5 in the Bromley Rural, one in the Cranbrook Rural, and 4 in the Maidstone Rural Districts, while the remaining 4 were reported from the Sevenoaks Urban District.

The death-rate from Measles showed the low figure of ·1 per 1,000 of population.

Whooping-cough showed a great decrease, falling from 61 deaths in 1897 to 22 deaths in 1898.

The Rural Districts of Cranbrook and Tenterden, and the Urban Districts of Sevenoaks and Tenterden were entirely free from deaths due to Whooping-cough. The remaining districts contributed as follows :—

Bromley Rural	...	..	7 deaths.
Maidstone „	...	...	4 „
Sevenoaks „	...	...	1 death.
Tonbridge „	...	...	3 deaths.
Southborough Urban	...		4 „
Tonbridge „	...		3 „

The death-rate from Whooping-cough was $\cdot 1$ per 1,000 of population.

Diarrhœa showed an increase, rising from 44 deaths to 70 deaths. Only 3 Districts were free from fatalities due to Diarrhœa, viz: Cranbrook and Tenterden Rural, and the Borough of Tenterden.

Nineteen deaths occurred in the Bromley Rural, 17 in the Maidstone Rural, 6 in the Sevenoaks Rural, 11 in the Tonbridge Rural Districts, whilst 2 occurred in the Sevenoaks Urban, 8 in the Southborough Urban, and 7 in the Tonbridge Urban Districts.

The Diarrhœa death-rate was $\cdot 5$ per 1,000 persons living.

Rheumatic Fever was responsible for 11 deaths.

Influenza showed an increase, the number of deaths rising from 34 in 1897 to 58 in 1898. They occurred 8 in Bromley, 9 in Cranbrook, 5 in Maidstone, 7 in Sevenoaks, 5 in Tenterden, and 17 in Tonbridge Rural Districts; the Urban Districts contributed 7 deaths, viz: Sevenoaks 1, Southborough 3, Tenterden 2, and Tonbridge one.

The Influenza death-rate was $\cdot 4$ per 1,000 of population.

Phthisis caused 141 deaths or 20 less than in 1897. Twelve patients were under 5 years of age, and the Districts contributed to the total as follows :—

Bromley Rural	...	...	29
Cranbrook „	...	...	8
Maidstone „	...	...	28
Sevenoaks „	...	...	23
Tenterden „	...	...	3
Tonbridge „	...	...	20
Sevenoaks Urban	...	...	9
Southborough „	...	...	7
Tenterden „	...	...	1
Tonbridge „	...	...	13
Total ...			141 deaths.

The Phthisis death-rate was 1·0 per 1,000 of population.

During 1898 the birth-rate throughout England and Wales, taken as a whole, was 29·4; the general death-rate 17·6 and the Zymotic death-rate 2·22 per 1,000 of population.

The death-rates from the 7 principal Zymotic diseases were as below :—

Small-pox ·01; Measles ·41; Scarlet Fever ·11; Diphtheria ·24; Whooping-cough ·31; Fever ·18; and Diarrhœa ·96.

The Infant Mortality was 161.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

JAMES SCOTT TEW.

March 28th, 1899.

TABLE I.

The General Death-rate, from Zymotic Diseases, and the Infant Mortality in the West Kent Sanitary Combination in each of the seven years ending December, 1898.

	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898
Death-rate of the whole Combination ...	15.6	14.4	14.3	15.0	13.0	12.5	12.9
“ in the six Rural Districts ...	15.4	14.5	13.1	15.4	13.5	12.3	12.5
“ in the four Urban Districts..	16.4	13.8	13.4	14.5	12.9	12.8	13.9
Zymotic Death-rate of the whole Combination.	0.94	1.11	1.05	0.91	1.39	1.22	1.12
“ in the six Rural Districts...	1.09	1.42	0.99	0.88	1.18	1.30	1.09
“ in the four Urban Districts	0.97	0.92	1.34	0.95	1.80	0.86	1.29
Deaths of Infants under one year to each 1,000							
Births registered:—							
Deaths of Infants in the whole Combination ...	116	108	101	107	111	112	115
“ six Rural Districts ...	118	106	100	114	108	114	117
“ four Urban Districts	104	121	112	96	109	105	121

TABLE II.

The Rural and Urban Districts of the West Kent Combination, showing the General Death-rates, the Zymotic Death-rates and the Infant Mortality in each of the 5 years ending December, 1898.

Districts.	Area in Acres.	Census Population, 1891.	Death-rate from all causes.					Death-rare from seven principal Zymotic Diseases.					Infant Mortality under one year per thousand Registered Births.				
			1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898
RURAL.																	
Bromley	33129	26852	11.8	14.0	11.4	12.5	11.6	1.4	0.8	1.1	1.6	1.5	82	121	112	140	129
Sevenoaks	64907	22387	12.8	13.2	12.5	11.1	11.1	0.7	0.5	1.1	1.0	0.8	97	91	119	108	98
Tenterden	38854	6537	11.5	15.1	15.8	10.8	12.6	0.8	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.0	97	101	95	81	56
Cranbrook	41436	13730	13.5	13.7	10.7	12.7	13.1	0.3	0.6	0.3	0.9	0.7	105	99	90	103	65
Tonbridge	41761	17831	13.4	17.1	14.5	12.4	13.1	0.4	1.1	1.6	0.9	1.2	106	138	115	86	137
Maidstone	34670	15907	14.8	19.3	16.4	14.4	15.4	1.5	1.6	2.4	1.8	1.3	110	139	116	122	142
URBAN.																	
Sevenoaks	2386	7610	13.1	10.0	9.9	10.0	11.3	2.0	0.3	2.3	0.7	0.9	98	112	73	80	68
Tonbridge	1200	10117	12.1	13.1	13.2	14.4	14.5	1.1	1.2	0.6	1.2	1.3	93	106	87	114	128
Tenderden	8490	3429	14.0	22.0	13.5	12.9	15.1	0.3	2.0	1.2	0.0	0.3	111	87	83	75	61
Southborough	1600	5418	15.5	12.0	15.0	13.4	15.7	1.5	0.3	3.1	1.0	2.2	157	88	192	132	184

TABLE OF DEATHS during the Year 1898, in the Rural and Urban Districts of the West Kent Combination, classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

Names of Localities adopted for the purpose of these Statistics; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	Mortality from All Causes, at Subjoined Ages.							Mortality from Subjoined Causes, distinguishing Deaths of Children under Five Years of Age.																							
	At all ages.	Under 1 year.	1 and under 5	5 and under 15.	15 and under 25.	25 and under 65.	65 and upwards.	Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Fevers.					Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping-Cough.	Diarrhoea and Dysentery.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phtisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, and Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	TOTAL.		
												Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.															
Bromley Rural	391	89	34	16	16	111	125	Under 5 upwds.	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	5	7	18	...	...	...	3	16	1	2	...	68	123
Cranbrook "	180	19	10	6	10	48	87	Under 5 upwds.	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	26	32	33	6	5	159	268
Maidstone "	291	55	20	6	15	79	116	Under 5 upwds.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	2	8	...	24	16	8	2	88	293
Sevenoaks "	272	51	17	13	17	79	95	Under 5 upwds.	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	2	5	...	2	5	23	29	24	5	3	123	216
Tenterden "	69	8	5	..	3	21	32	Under 5 upwds.	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	1	22	25	35	6	7	102	204	
Tonbridge "	304	69	20	7	11	88	109	Under 5 upwds.	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	3	11	...	...	3	...	4	4	5	1	39	56
Sevenoaks Urban	92	11	7	7	7	40	20	Under 5 upwds.	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	...	...	...	1	19	27	33	17	2	109	215	
Southboro' "	98	34	5	3	3	17	36	Under 5 upwds.	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	8	...	...	7	8	10	3	...	22	39	74
Tenterden "	61	5	4	3	2	8	39	Under 5 upwds.	3	2	...	4	9	52
Tonbridge "	133	36	8	1	10	38	40	Under 5 upwds.	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	6	...	...	1	12	8	2	1	...	22	44
Totals ..	1891	377	130	62	94	529	699	Under 5 upwds.	...	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4	13	20	62	1	12	86	5	7	3	278	507	
									...	13	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	4	1	2	8	10	129	165	182	51	25	782	1384	

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality.

Deaths occurring outside the district to persons belonging thereto.	10	1	3	6	..	..	45	Under 5	Under 5	4	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
									5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Deaths occurring within the district to persons not belonging thereto.	96	4	2	1	3	41	45	Under 5	Under 5	1	6	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
									5 upwds.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

TABLE IV.

The number of deaths from all causes, and from the seven principal Zymotic Diseases with their Death-rates; the principal causes of Death, and the Infant Mortality in the West Kent Combined Sanitary District, in each Quarter of 1898.

Quarters.	Deaths from all causes.	Death-rate per 1000.	Death from 7 principal Zymotics.	Zymotic Death-rate.	Small-pox.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Croup.	Enteric Fever.	Puerperal Fever.	Cholera.	Erysipelas.	Measles.	Whooping-cough.	Diarrhoea.	Rheumatic Fever.	Phtthisis.	Bronchitis, Pneumonia, Pleurisy.	Heart Disease.	Influenza.	Injuries.	All other Diseases.	Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1000 births.
1st.	572	15·4	28	0·7	...	1	9	...	2	...	..	5	2	13	1	2	33	98	57	50	7	292	127
2nd.	383	10·9	14	0·3	...	...	3	...	...	...	...	...	8	2	1	4	38	57	54	7	7	202	60
3rd.	457	21·1	71	2·0	...	...	9	...	1	...	1	2	3	4	54	2	40	39	39	...	10	253	125
4th.	489	13·0	43	1·2	...	1	18	...	5	1	...	1	1	3	14	3	30	57	37	1	4	313	109
Total	1901	12·9	156	1·1	...	2	39	...	8	1	1	8	14	22	70	11	141	251	187	58	28	1060	115

TABLE V.

Deaths from Zymotic Diseases during the past ten years, and in 1898,
in the West Kent Combined Sanitary District.

Zymotic Diseases.	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	Average of 10 years.	1898
Small-pox ...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	0.2	0
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	...	6	21	13	5	9	5	8.2	2
Diphtheria...	...	...	...	...	56	79	51	29	37	28	38.0	39
Fevers ...	...	...	...	...	6	15	12	4	10	20	12.1	9
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	20	20	13	15	68	12	26.0	14
Whooping-cough ...	...	...	...	...	22	30	60	25	41	61	46.1	22
Diarrhoea ...	...	...	...	...	34	44	19	48	25	44	32.2	70
Total of Zymotics	139	147	152	181	146	209	168	126	190	170	162.8	156
Other Zymotics ...	31	27	56	63	156	104	62	77	31	40	64.7	66
Totals ...	170	174	208	244	302	313	230	203	221	210	227.5	222

TABLE VI.

Showing the number of Cases notified under the Compulsory Notification of Diseases Act in each of the ten Districts of the West Kent Combination, and the Deaths registered from each of these diseases in 1898.

Rural and Urban Districts.	Estimated Population in 1898.	Small-pox.		Scarlet Fever.		Diphtheria		Membranous Croup.		Enteric Fever.		Cholera.		Puerperal Fever.		Erysipelas.		Totals.	
		Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
Bromley Rural	31,513	...	...	47	...	63	14	...	...	24	3	...	...	...	...	31	2	165	19
Cranbrook "	13,708	...	...	109	...	19	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	1	1	18	2	149	3
Maidstone "	16,215	...	...	51	...	45	2	...	...	14	...	...	...	1	...	4	...	115	2
Sevenoaks "	23,575	...	...	24	...	18	7	...	...	7	2	1	1	1	...	15	...	66	10
Tenterden "	6,325	...	...	7	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	15	...
Tonbridge "	18,171	...	...	35	1	59	9	...	...	20	3	...	...	1	...	19	3	134	16
Sevenoaks Urban	8,731	...	...	6	...	6	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1	15	3
Southboro' "	6,679	...	...	...	...	22	3	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	25	3
Tenterden "	3,297	...	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	1
Tonbridge "	10,739	...	...	12	...	4	2	...	...	10	...	...	...	...	...	9	...	35	2
Totals	138,953	...	...	294	2	242	39	...	...	78	8	1	1	4	1	103	8	722	59